

Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 07, 2012

The Bethany Beach Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, February 07, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. in the Town Meeting Room, 214 Garfield Parkway, Bethany Beach, DE 19930.

Members present: Carol Olmstead, who presided; Gloria Farrar; Jan Kinsella; Theo Loppatto; Mary Lou McNerney; Jean Wode; and Margaret Young.

Absent: Mary Lou Urquhart

Also present: Lindsey Good, Administrative Secretary.

Call to Order

Ms. Olmstead called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from the January 10, 2012 Meeting

Ms. Young made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Loppatto seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Announcements

- Ms. Young visited Ms. Fowler at her new home yesterday, and it was a very nice time.
- Ms. Olmstead reported that Ms. Pamela Szypulski sent her an e-mail explaining that she will no longer be on the Committee because she has many work and family responsibilities. Ms. Olmstead replied to Ms. Szypulski that she understands and she is still welcomed to attend any of the CHAC meetings.
- Ms. Olmstead explained that the Center for Inland Bays is putting together a collaboration of photographs from the Storm of 1962 and the Town Manager, Cliff Graviat is creating the display. Ms. Olmstead asked if any of the members would be interested in representing the display during the event on March 7th. She is going to obtain more information on this event and provide it to the members.

Finalize Plans for 2012 Cultural Events

Ms. Farrar reported that she contacted Tom Ryan, and he is able to do a presentation on Women of the Civil War for a Cultural Event on May 8, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Farrar e-mailed the developer of the Delaware History Trail, Russell McCabe, today. She will update the Committee when he responds.

Ms. Olmstead acknowledged that the Delaware History Trail would be a very interesting topic for a Cultural Event. She noted that the speaker on the Historical Trail could possibly speak at a Cultural Event in April.

Continue Plans for “Periers Day”: July 27th

Committee Responsibilities

Ms. Olmstead distributed a list of responsibilities for the Committee members for the planning of “Periers Day” on July 27th. The responsibilities are as follows:

- Flyers posted recognizing “Periers Day”: Ms. Farrar
- Banner displayed a week or so ahead: Ms. Olmstead
- Ask local restaurants to offer some French entrées, appetizers, and desserts: Ms. Olmstead will draft a letter explaining “Periers Day” and invite them to include their restaurant in the event. Ms. Wode will distribute the letter to all of the restaurants located in the Town.
- Bandstand acknowledgement with French National Anthem: Ms. Farrar and Councilman, Mr. Joseph Healy.
- Museum display with pictures and story of Periers/Bethany twinning: Ms. Loppatto will work with Diana Cowell on this project. It could be displayed in the Museum a couple weeks ahead of time.
- News articles in local papers that week: Ms. Olmstead will call the local paper to see if they will publish an article on Bethany/Periers being sister cities and the “Periers Day” event. Ms. Young noted that the article should also provide information on the history of the Liberation.
- Begin a scrapbook of Periers for the Museum: Ms. Olmstead stated that this project can be worked on after the event.
- Advertise even at Farmers Market the previous Sunday: Ms. Young
- E-mail Mayor of Periers and other friends in Periers regarding the event: Ms. Olmstead
- Look into having a live webcam video of Perier on the Town of Bethany Beach’s website, and vice versa: Ms. Olmstead will ask the Town Clerk, Lisa Kail and the Town Manager, Cliff Graviet about accomplishing this.
- Fly the French Flag (and possibly Town of Periers flag): Ms. Olmstead

Ms. Olmstead noted that she sent this list to Diana Cowell and asked for her input. Ms. Cowell forwarded it to Christian Levoufre of Periers and he responded that these are excellent ideas. He suggested adding the following ideas:

- Have the restaurants serve French dries on “Periers Day”.
- Broadcast the event on a local television station. Ms. McNerney suggested having the information broadcasted on the talk show “Delmarva Today” that airs at 4:00 p.m. every day. The Committee members agreed that this is a great idea.

- Put a link on the Town's website that shows a live webcam of Periers, and the Town of Periers can also put a live webcam link of Bethany Beach on their website.

Ms. Wode suggested that she can choose a chef for the Chef's demonstration at the Farmer's Market to advertise "Periers Day".

Ms. Young pointed out that she was told the Farmer's Market no longer has chef demonstrations.

Ms. Olmstead acknowledged that that this would be a great idea if there are still chef demonstrations.

Oral History Project: Update and Input

Ms. Olmstead expressed that the video of the interview on Art Antal that they viewed at the previous meeting was very touching.

Ms. Olmstead emphasized that there are still many people that are on the list to be interviewed. She explained that the interviews can either be completed this month or the Oral History project can be completed and finalized with the interviews that have already taken place.

Ms. Loppatto stated that she feels the project should be completed with the interviews they already have conducted.

Ms. Young noted that if there are any individuals that are especially interested in being interviewed, they should have the chance to do so.

Ms. Farrar recommended that this project be closed with the interviews they already have. She added that an additional disc could always be created in in about five (5) years.

Ms. Kinsella asked how many people have been interviewed.

Ms. Olmstead reviewed the list of those who have been interviewed with the Committee.

The Committee decided to finalize the Oral History Project with the interviews that have been conducted.

Ms. Olmstead will bring the demo disc that Mr. Ray provided to the next meeting for Ms. Kinsella and Ms. Wode to view.

Ms. Olmstead acknowledged that the Oral History Project DVD's should be published by Memorial Day and then ready to be sold in the Museum. She will contact Mr. Disney to let him

know there will be no more interviews for the time being, but more may be conducted a few years from now.

Museum Docents: Review Letter to be Sent

Ms. Olmstead reviewed the following letter she drafted to be e-mailed to the docents and asked the members for their comments, questions or suggestions.

“Dear _____,

At a recent meeting of the Bethany Beach Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee, the summer docent hours in the Bethany Beach Museum were discussed. Several members of the committee serve as docents and expressed the view that perhaps having the docents available at another day and/or time might be beneficial. It was noted that there have been only very few visitors to the museum during the Sunday afternoons.

We greatly appreciate your participation as a docent during the past years and hope we can look forward to your continuing in the future. Your input will be helpful in planning for the upcoming year. The following times have been suggested and would replace the Sunday hours. Please let us know your thoughts regarding this change and your possible availability.

- * *Wednesday evenings from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. during July and August.*
- * *Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. – 2 p.m. during May / June and September / October*
(2 shifts each 2 hours)
- * ~~*An hour or so before any Cultural Events held at Town Hall.*~~

A meeting will be held in the Spring to finalize plans. Once again thank you for your generous time and efforts in making our museum available to friends and visitors of Bethany Beach.

Carol Olmstead”

Ms. Loppatto suggested that verbiage could be added, such as a deadline date, to request input back from the docents.

Ms. Wode recommended that a sign-up sheet be attached to the e-mail.

Ms. Olmstead replied that the docents may not yet know their availability. She added that they first need to be notified of the change in the Museum schedule.

Ms. Wode advised that the Museum schedule be included on the Bethany Beach Calendar for next year.

Ms. Olmstead stated that as of right now, they need to receive input from the docents and a docent schedule needs to be created. After this is accomplished, Ms. Farrar can add it the Calendar.

Ms. Olmstead said that she will re-format the letter so that the times stand out more, and she will remove the last bullet which states: “*An hour or so before any Cultural Events held at Town Hall*”.

Ms. Olmstead said that she will also ask Town Clerk, Lisa Kail to advertise that the Committee is seeking docents for the Museum on the Town Website.

Input Regarding Ongoing Projects

The Committee discussed the following on-going projects:

- Ms. Loppatto acknowledged that Gaylord Company carries many supplies from Museums. She will show Ms. Olmstead the information that she discovered online.
- Newspaper articles: Ms. Kinsella and Ms. Urquhart are working on this project.
- Brown signs advertising the Museum: The Committee decided to pursue this project. Ms. Kinsella will find the current process for obtaining a brown sign, and bring it to the next meeting.
- Notecards: Ms. Olmstead explained that Ms. Szypluski had provided her with the information on notecards. She feels that it would be appropriate to sell these in the Museum during the summer.

Ms. Wode suggested that it would also be convenient to sell them at the Bethany Beach Books store, especially during times when the Museum is closed.

Ms. Olmstead agreed, but stated that they should limit it to only this store. She noted that it was briefly discussed at a prior meeting to have them available to purchase at all times that the Town Hall is open.

Ms. Wode questioned if they could be sold on the Town’s website. Ms. Olmstead said that they could just be sold at the front window in the Town Hall.

Ms. Loppatto questioned if the design of the notecards has been established.

Ms. Olmstead explained that the design is complete, and the notecards just need to be printed and boxed.

- Booklets on the History of Bethany Beach by the Bethany Beach Landowner's Association: Ms. Wode will pursue this project.
- Can sell Michael Morgan's book on the history of Bethany Beach in the Museum:
- Selling the book "Return to Bethany" by Carol Pswaro in the Museum.

Ms. Wode questioned if the Committee has ever discussed selling Bethany Beach ornaments.

Ms. Olmstead explained that the Town Clerk, Lisa Kail attended a Clerks' Convention, and she brought back an ornament example that CHAC could sell. Although it was a nice idea, the Committee decided that it would be too expensive to have them made.

- Large map on the wall of the Town Hall: Ms. Olmstead explained that the Committee discussed a few years ago the idea of selling copies of this map. She will bring the map to the next meeting.

Ms. Farrar noted that many people have requested copies of photos in the Museum and that are on the kiosk.

Ms. Olmstead said that she mailed copies of photos to a few individuals for a fee of ten dollars (\$10). However, she has only received a few requests.

Ms. Olmstead stated that she will bring in copies of the note cards, wall map, CDs containing interviews for the Oral History Project, and the book by Michael Morgan.

Adjourn

Ms. Wode made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Loppatto, the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2012 at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lindsey Good
Administrative Secretary

